tions be carried out to create an enabling environment for increasing supply of land and rental housing, which is the best way to stablise the price of land and shelter.

Encroachment in front of offices of Newspapers

2989. SHRI JAGMOHAN? Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the amounts which are recoverable 'from various newspaper establishments on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg;

(b) what are the detailed break-up of the demand in each case in terms of conversion/misuse/damages, etc;

(c) since how long the cases in which the courts were moved are pending;

(d) whether the trafic and parking in front of the offices/establishments of the newspapers have become chaotic and even green areas in the neighbourhood are being encroached; and

(e) what remedial measures have been taken or are being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) The information is given in the statement enclosed. *(See* Appendix 173, annexure No. 63)

(c) The case of Indian Express Newspaper Pvt. Ltd. is pending before Delhi High Court since 1987.

(d) and (e) The sites for parking have been allotted to Indian Express and Children Book trust by the MCD on payment of tehbazari which , is being regularly paid by the allottees. It has further been reported by the MCD that as and when any encroach ment on account of parking comes to the notice of the local body the same is removed under the provisions of MCD act.

CPWD fire fighting system

2990. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "CPWD fire fighting system non-functional" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 11th January, 1995;

(b) it so, whether the fire fighting system in buildings controlled by CPWD are inadequate and risky, resulting in damage to some flats in Pragati Vihar;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen the fire fighting system of CPWD; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Fire Service inspected the Pragti Vihar Hostel and found the fire fighting arrangements "to be adequate. The 'No Objection Certificate' to continuance of occupancy for Pragati Vihar Hostel was issued by them on 28.1.1994.

(c) and (d) The CPWD has installed necessary fire fighting equipment in the various Multi Storeyed buildings in Delhi as per statutory provisions. However, the usefulness of these equipments has been sub-optimal in the absence of wholetime trained personnel to man the Fire Control Rooms.

Contribution of private sector to New Housing Policy

2991. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the contribution of private sector, since the enforcement of the New Housing Policy, for

providing land and housing to the poorer sections of the society, viz., persons living in shacks and slums or belonging to low income groups;

(b) in how many cases land at 'affordable cost' has been made available to such people, either by private or public sector, during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(c) whether the number of persons living in slums and shacks has shown an alarming increase during the last three years; and

(d) whether Government would consider modification of New Housing Policy to alleviate hardships of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The National Housing Policy has been adopted by Parliament only in August, 1994. It is too early to assess the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of that policy.

(b) HUDCO has sanctioned financial assistance to the extent indicated below for housing schemes for EWs & LIG during the last two years:—

Year	Amount of loan sanctioned (Rs. in crores)			Number of dwelling units sanctioned		
	EWS (R)	EWS (U)	LIG	EWS (R)	EWS (U)	LIG
1992-93	102.39	78.77	172	168329	73666	53598
1993-94	120.18	57.32	222	219290	41719	80133

HDFC, a private sector Housing Finance Institutions has so far provided housing loans amounting to Rs. 63.74 crores to about 71000 EWS 'families for construction of their houses.

(c) No such survey has been made. However the estimated slum popula tion in 1991 was 4.53 crores against 2.79 crores in 1991.

(d) The hardships of persons living in informal settlements cannot be attributed to the National Housing Policy. On the contrary, the said policy is designed to assist them to overcome their hardships. There is, therefore, no proposal to recast the policy at this stage.

Foreign assistance for improvement of slums in U.P.

2992. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for foreign assistance to promote the upgradation of slum area, rural and urban housing and for improving sanitation facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have provided any foreign loan for the above proposal;

(d) if so, the quantum of loan provided to the State; and

(e) the criteria adopted for providing the loan to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMIPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal for the development of slums in Varanasi, U.P. was received for seeking the assistance of Overseas Development Agensy, U.K. in October, 1990 with a view to provide health care and family welfare schemes, social